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DIGEST OF FIRE INSURANCE DECISIONS IN THE COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA. By GEORGE A. CLEMENT. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1893.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE IN THEIR APPLICATION TO THE TRIAL OF CRIMINAL CASES AT COMMON LAW AND UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODES OF THE SEVERAL STATES. By FRANK S. RICE. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., 1893.

THE CIVIL DISABILITIES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES ARISING OUT OF NEGLIGENCE. By HENRY F. BUSWELL. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1893.

FORENSIC ORATORY: A MANUAL FOR ADVOCATES. By WILLIAM C. ROBINSON, LL.D. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1893.

THE MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS. Cases decided in the Inferior Courts of Record of the State of New York. F. B. Delehanty, reporter. Vol. I. Albany: James B. Lyon, 1893.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF MORTGAGES OF REAL PROPERTY. By DARIUS H. PINGREY. In two volumes. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., 1893.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By HORACE E. SMITH, LL.D. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., Law Book Publishers, 1893.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE LAW OF CERTIORARI—at Common Law and Under the Statutes. By GEORGE E. HARRIS. Rochester: Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1893.

Charitable solicitude for that much-to-be-pitied individual, the "working lawyer," is responsible for many of the "tools" by which compassionate literary workers have attempted to soften his burdens—attempts which have increased, in a geometrical progression, the accessions to our law libraries, as well as the capital of various publishing firms. We have before us another "working tool," from the pen of Mr. GEORGE E. HARRIS, one of the reporters of the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and, as appears from the title page, a writer of some experience.

"It may be regarded as a little singular," Mr. HARRIS observes in his preface, "that law writers have not deemed it proper to give us a separate treatise on the subject of certiorari . . . though it is an ancient remedy." The reason for the lack of legal literature upon this topic is readily explained. The writ of certiorari is a common-law writ, regulated by a few well-defined principles—principles concerning which it may be truly said that at the present time there is neither doubt, complexity, nor confusion. A practitioner seeking light upon the question of the applicability of the writ, turns to a local work on practice or to a digest—of which

there are many of real value—and generally finds all necessary information. It appears to us that urgent necessity for a work is the consideration which should appeal most strongly to one about entering the field of legal authorship, and that there is no such necessity for a work like the one before us.

The arrangement of the work is bad; bad because the writer commits the original sin of forgetting that in dealing with questions concerning the writ he is dealing with principles of remedial law. A discussion upon topics of substantive law is out of place, and confusing. Thus, in chapters IV and V we have a learned commentary on the law of Municipal Corporations; chapters VI and VII instruct the reader in a few odd principles of the law of Eminent Domain, with respect to highways and drains; while a little point or two on Road Laws, followed by a dash of legal principles relating to Ferries and Toll bridges, brings these interesting chapters to a close. So the work continues, chapter after chapter dealing with principles of Landlord and Tenant law, Local Option, Contempt of Court, etc., while this grand review of our substantive law is concluded by two chapters, covering seventy pages, on Criminal Law.

The work altogether lacks perspective. Every topic to which the writer desires to call the attention of the reader is forcibly presented to his eye by large black-letter captions, which, continuing all through the work, grow tiresome, and give to the page anything but a neat appearance. No discrimination is made in the text between a principle of law and concrete illustrations of a principle. For instance, in the same style of type we have, at page 348, the law of certiorari treated with respect to "Theft of a Cow and Calf;" at 347 we have "Larceny of Cattle;" page 346 varies the monotony by discussion of the law applicable to the case of the "Trial of a Slave;" and at 391 there is another remarkable sub-division showing the rule of law applicable to certain suits for the value of "Sheep killed on Railroad Tracks."

Of Mr. HARRIS' work it may be said that it shows industry, completeness, and something more: he has stated at length every case in which the question of whether a writ of certiorari would lie has been at all discussed. We doubt, however, in view of the arrangement and his mode of treatment, whether the work will ever become a valuable "working tool."

JOHN A. MCCARTHY.

CODE PRACTICE IN PERSONAL ACTIONS. An Elementary Treatise upon the Practice in a Civil Action as Governed by the Provisions of the New York Code of Civil Procedure. By JAMES L. BISHOP. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1893.

This work is in the nature of an annotation upon the New York Code of Civil Procedure. Beginning with a brief historical sketch of New York's judicial system, the author explains so much of the early procedure as will help the student to understand the existing practice in that State. In the course of this brief introduction we observe that four pages are devoted to an exemplification of personal actions, and of pleadings at the common law. Such an outline summary is doubtless inserted in order to insure completeness in the work, but is in reality altogether useless. If